



Grant writing assistance available to small businesses, nonprofits and K-20 STEM education programs

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Small businesses, nonprofit organizations and K-20 Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education programs in seven northern New Mexico counties—Mora, Rio Arriba, Sandoval, San Miguel, Santa Fe, Taos and Los Alamos—have a free-of-charge resource available to them: grant writers funded by Los Alamos National Security, LLC, the company managing Los Alamos National Laboratory.

“We started the Grant Writing Assistance Program two years ago to help our regional partners in the areas of education, economic development and other community-related projects by providing a much needed resource—grant writers,” said Carole Rutten, deputy director of the Laboratory’s Community Programs Office and program manager of the grant-writing initiative. “Our partners need to write grants to create new programs

and support existing initiatives, but they often don't have time to actually write a full grant."

Services provided include researching prospective grant opportunities, offering advice on developing a grant, grant writing and coaching during the grant writing process.

"We pair each community partner with a grant writer and arrange for them to meet," Rutten explained. "The partner shares their vision for the grant and provides specific programmatic information, and then the grant writer goes off and starts writing."

To date, the Grant Writing Assistance Program has helped write grants totaling more than \$194 million dollars, with \$1.3 million awarded so far. "We recently assisted the Los Alamos Public School District, for instance, by helping write their 'Early College High School' grant," Rutten said. "The New Mexico Public Education Department subsequently funded the project with a \$100,000 award to allow Los Alamos High School students to work on college degrees at the same time they are earning their High School diplomas."

Another grant writing project that Rutten and her team recently participated in was a more modest, \$5,000 grant for the village of Abiquiu to implement a new recycling program at their elementary school.

To be added to the Grant Writing Assistance Program's email list, or to apply for grant writing assistance, contact Carole Rutten at the Community Programs Office (crutten@lanl.gov, 505-664-4400) and briefly describe your organization and its focus areas.

Los Alamos National Laboratory

www.lanl.gov

(505) 667-7000

Los Alamos, NM

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